



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 18.11 Thursday, March 15, 2012

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

VBT Public Safety Committee discusses 62% increase in B&Es

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Forced Entry Burglaries are up 62% from last year at this time in Van Buren Township.

At the March 7 meeting of the VBT Public Safety Committee, Public Safety Director Carl McClanahan reported there have been 37 so far this year, up from 14 at this time last year.

He said the breakings and enterings occur when no one is home. In one break-in, "quite a few" weapons were taken.

A woman from the far northwest corner of the township told the committee that her home was broken into the previous Saturday, while she and her family were attending the Monster Jam.

She said both her storm door and front door were dead-bolted shut. The storm door was bent open and intruders back-kicked her metal front door until the wooden frame splintered.

"They took my TVs, laptop, and other electronics. I'm wiped out," she said,

adding she has been told by other break-in victims that the intruders come back after the resident replaces belongings with insurance money.

She said she is terrified they will be back, so she's keeping a loaded shotgun on her dining room table. She said she's been told the thieves knock on the door first to see if anybody's home and she is afraid she will be in the back of the house and not hear them.

"How do I get help?" she asked.

Committee member Raymond Bailey advised "Make sure they're in the house when you shoot them."

"It's terrible that you have to do that," she replied.

Director McClanahan emphasized, "We can't advise you to shoot anyone."

He said police are investigating the rash of break-ins in the community of Denton near her neighborhood, as well as those on her street.

"We have identified locations, patterns,"
(continued on page 19)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

Diane Madigan, left, was unanimously elected 2012 chairman of the Van Buren Township Public Safety Committee at its regular meeting March 7. Regina Miller, right, was elected vice chairman.

Big Tiger Paw causes problems for new football field at BHS

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Public Schools cannot accept the new artificial turf football field at Belleville High School until the problem of the big Tiger Paw is solved.

At Monday's meeting of the school board, School Supt. Michael Van Tassel explained the problem.

He said the 50-yard line and possibly the 45s need to be fixed so they comply with state and national regulations. The yard markers are interrupted by the paw and they have to go through the paw.

"They have to sew a piece in," Supt. Van Tassel said. "It's a rug out there."

The district is in negotiations with the company that installed the field. If the company doesn't make the field regulation and the district accepts the field as is, the school district would have to do the repair.



"We hired them to meet state and national guidelines," Van Tassel said.

"Mr. Wills is working quite hard on the paw issue," Van Tassel said, referring to Paul Wills of Plante Moran CRESA who is managing BHS construction.

Van Tassel said one of the problems is

that the company proposed putting in a white line, while the district is holding out for off-orange.

He said if the district is lucky, it can take over ownership of the field in June or July. Until then, he can't let students be on the field.

"If I, that is, we take ownership, we have to fix it," Van Tassel said.

He said the track team is another entity. It can use the new track, but has to stay off the football field. Coaches walk the students out to the track, he said, a procedure he is not crazy about.

Van Tassel said last year students were running in the streets and the district got complaints.

The explanation about the status of the

football field came after Cathy Perry and Elizabeth Vandecar asked the board about it since they are members of the newly organized Belleville Lacrosse Booster Club.

Lacrosse has been running as a club sport for four years and, they said, is gaining in popularity every year.

Vandecar said she heard there had been quarterback clinics held on the new football field and Van Tassel said that is not true and explained about the paw.

Perry asked if the lacrosse players could run around the track for conditioning and Van Tassel said she would have to talk to the high school administration about that since it schedules track use.

Menards signs purchase agreement for VBT site, depends on site plan OK

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Saturday, Richard Sloan alerted Van Buren Township Supervisor Paul White that

officials with Menards home improvement store have signed a purchase agreement for a 31-acre site he owns on the North I-94
(continued on page 13)

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

School Board approves \$445,116 contract for Carnegie Math Program

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

A three-year contract at \$148,371.91 per year for a Carnegie Mathematics Program was unanimously approved by the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education at its regular meeting Monday.

The \$445,115.73 total covers textbooks, software, comprehensive teacher training, and in-classroom support. The program is for all seventh and eighth grade students and high school students taking geometry, said School Supt. Michael Van Tassel, who added he was an enthusiastic supporter of the program.

He said the payment for the program would come from Title 2A funds and not out of the general budget.

The computers necessary for the program will be those inherited from present Belleville High School classes, since the new BHS will have all new computers.

The Carnegie program was introduced to the board at a workshop session Feb. 20, but it apparently has been somewhat in use since last fall, according to Nicole Crockett, the two-day-a-week mathematics consultant at BHS, who came to the district by way of Wayne County RESA.

She told the board she has been working with Carnegie for five years.

Trustee Sherry Frazier pushed for information on other nearby districts that have used Carnegie successfully and asked about Taylor.

Crockett said Taylor did not use the program "with fidelity" because it didn't have the computers. She did not mention any other districts.

Board President Martha Toth also said she enthusiastically supported the Carnegie Program.

"I had hoped we could afford it years ago," Toth said.

"I've seen so often districts jump on the bandwagon..." Frazier began and Van Tassel interrupted her.

"It's not new. It's not ... a flavor of the month. Carnegie Mellon only does math..." Van Tassel said.

"What about Kahn Academy?" Frazier asked, referring to a free educational program described on "60 Minutes". Crockett said that was by internet only.

Frazier wanted a survey to see how many students have access to computers at home so they could practice there and do homework.

Toth said such a survey was not necessary for approving the program, adding, "We need to get on board."

Van Tassel said by 2013-14 the district has "to be Common Core," referring to state standards and Carnegie could get it

there.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the board:

- Approved a contract with TEL Systems not to exceed \$161,186 for a video distribution system for the new BHS, paid with bond funds. The system includes six high-definition video channels, a Video on Demand server, and up to 29, 55" LCD monitors to be installed in all common areas;

- Approved the hiring of Rachel Hatcher as a Title I Social Worker at Elwell Elementary School starting March 19;

- Gave Van Tassel approval to pursue contract negotiations with a latchkey service provider and bring it back to the board for a decision. Diane Kullis, special services supervisor, gave a presentation on the four bids she gathered for outsourcing latchkey programs for the four elementary schools and the 5-6 building. Trustee Scott Russell said, although local daycares charge \$5 per hour per child, the low bid to the district is \$7 per child per day, "We're outsourcing and can't be accused of unfair labor practice";

- Approved implementation of a Young Fives program for the 2012-13 school year, since the district will get full state funding for the program and it will pay for itself. Kullis pointed out Keystone Academy, "a Van Buren competitor", will be offering a full day Young Fives program in the fall;

- Approved the first reading of four new board policies required by the state having to do with items that no longer can be bargained: Discipline, Demotion and Discharge of Certified Staff; Staff Evaluation Process; Layoff and Recall; and Teacher Placement;

- Approved the second and final reading of the Anti-Bullying policy as required by the state;

- Approved the Social Studies Assessment and cut scores for the Mi-Access program for mildly cognitively impaired students in the 11th grade, and approved beginning work on a board policy, as required by the state; and

- Went into executive session to discuss Russell's question on the minutes of the March 7 disciplinary hearing.

Markese Sanders graduates from Emory University

Markese Sanders, of Detroit, son of Daisy Young of Belleville and Frank Sanders of Detroit, received a Bachelor of Science degree from Emory College of Emory University in Atlanta, GA, during ceremonies on Dec. 17.



Among those enjoying Sunday's corned beef cabbage dinner at the Masonic Temple in Belleville were, from left, Van Buren Township Trustee Denise Partridge, Jean Morris, and Thelma Griffin. This was the second monthly home-cooked meal put on by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts to help raise funds to buy property on Main Street to build an arts center.

Sumpter Township Planners recommend rezoning for new funeral home

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After a 30-minute public hearing on March 8, the Sumpter Township Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend a rezoning to make way for a new funeral home.

The 4,000-square-foot building on 0.55 acre at 19865 Sumpter Road had been a bingo hall and then a church before being purchased by Christopher and Sandy Janowiak, with finalization of the sale depending on the rezoning.

The request was to change it from the R-2, Country Home Residential, zoning to C-2, Community Commercial.

The township board on March 13 unanimously approved the commission's rezoning recommendation.

Planning consultant Laura Kreps of Carlisle Wortman said the property is located in close proximity to other commercial zoning and near an intersection. Commercial zoning is in conformance with the master plan and is compatible with nearby properties.

Since the building had last been used as a church, it is considered reoccupation of an existing building and will not need a site plan.

Kreps said the use as a funeral home is not expected to impact traffic. She added the building already is commercial in nature and the rezoning will bring it into compliance. It will not be spot zoning.

She said she recommends approval of the rezoning.

Kreps said the Janowiaks plan to replace the fencing, pave the parking lot, and erect

signage. She said they expect 10-20 funerals per year with each funeral bringing about 10-20 cars.

She said the use of a currently unused building is expected to spur development in that area.

As part of the public hearing, a letter was read from Margaret Rochon of Sumpter Road who objected to the use, since she said there was not enough parking.

Another letter was read from George Pitts, the owner of the building who was in favor of the rezoning.

Other residents asked questions about the proposed use, with Kim Snyder, who lives three houses down the road, voicing concerns about traffic, how the parking will be handled, and how it will affect the resale values of the nearby home.

At the hearing, Sandy Janowiak represented her husband, who was out of town, and spoke of their plans for a second funeral home. Currently they have a funeral home in downtown Ypsilanti. They have been in the business for more than 30 years.

Janowiak said funeral service has changed in the last few years. She said in Ypsilanti their parking lot is about one-third the size of the one on Sumpter Road.

"Our guys pack cars very well [for the funeral procession]," Janowiak said, adding they are able to move cars out in an amazingly efficient way.

After the meeting adjourned, neighbors of the property introduced themselves to Janowiak and welcomed her and her business into their community.

OPINIONS

Editorial

This is National Sunshine Week

The American Society of News Editors every year celebrates National Sunshine Week in March to encourage dialogue about the value of open government and laws guaranteeing public access to information.

Why is this important? The Michigan Freedom of Information Act states: "The people shall be informed so that they may fully participate in the democratic process."

We are better citizens of our communities if we have information on our government and its activities. That's why this newspaper publishes long lists of what we are paying our public servants, although sometimes it seems like we are the servants of our employees.

A Belleville businessman brought me in a list of pay for average citizens in the tri-community, which was about \$24,000 each. I checked with the 2010 U.S. Census. The average income per household in the 48111 zip code is \$50,135. Divide that by 2.47 average people per household and you get an estimate for each annual paycheck, more like \$20,298. Compare that to our local public servants who these "average citizens" are paying with their taxes.

Well, actually, half are paying since the latest figures show only about 50% of Americans pay income tax. All this is to say we need to keep an eye on what's happening in our communities. It's really hard to keep track of the county, state, and federal spending, but locally we should be able to do it. Maybe, it's just fine. Maybe, not. It's up to us citizens to decide.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

At the end of last week's meeting of the Belleville Civil Service Commission, Police Chief Gene Taylor asked for a pay raise, since he hasn't had one in six years.

"You may as well go out and spit in the wind," replied City Manager Diana Kollmeyer, who is wrestling with diminished city funds.

I guess that's a "No."

Michael Loria, who had just been elected chairman of the commission, said in his job as an Ypsilanti Fire Fighter his compensation had a 5% cut in wages plus payment of 20% of health care. He noted things are tough in every municipality.

On page 56 of the April 2012 issue of Popular Science magazine, there is a story called "Underground Robot Library" which tells about an underground system of robotic stacks that was introduced last June at the Mansueto Library at the University of Chicago.

The library was facing a challenge of too many books, since it gets 150,000 new books a year. This robotic retrieval system is capable of holding 3.5 million volumes in one-seventh the space required by conventional stacks. Cost for this system was \$10 million. After a book is requested by way of the online card catalog, it takes five minutes for the system to send a "ready for pickup" email to the patron.

Dematic, a firm that builds automated parts and storage-retrieval systems for Boeing, Ford and IBM, designed the five-story underground storage area managed by five robotic cranes. Dematic has built



17 automated library systems worldwide, but the University of Chicago's is the most complex.

The story said the system does not use the Dewey Decimal System but sorts by size of the book. The story said most libraries lose or mis-shelve 2-3% of their collections every year and with this new system that loss is virtually eliminated.

All this is to say the people who speak up at local library board meetings, saying that in a few years libraries may not look anything like they do now, might realize what's happening.

A young man reports he was walking home to Ypsilanti from work at a fast-food restaurant on Belleville Road at about 5 a.m. on March 9. He saw a rollover accident on the North I-94 Service Drive and smelled gasoline. He was afraid it would explode, so he pulled two people from the wreckage.

When VBT Police arrived the young man, soaked in gasoline and freezing cold, was pretty much told by the police to get lost. He continued his long walk home.

His father, whom I have known for years, thought that was pretty rude. Perhaps, the police were thinking of the injured and not the young hero at the time. (I can't find the accident on the dispatch log for that time.)

The National Weather Service is gearing

up for the severe weather season in Michigan, which usually runs from May to August. The closest of the 23 Spring Skywarn training classes is at 7 p.m., March 26, at the Huron High School Auditorium - Huron Civic Auditorium in Huron Township. The presentation takes about two hours.

In its spring media newsletter, the National Weather Service is calling this the year without a winter. There was no snow on the ground through most of the winter. One of the biggest snowfall events occurred the last day of November when from 4 to 7 inches fell across the area. Then, on Feb. 10, from 2 to 4 inches fell and on Feb. 24, 3-6 inches. Heavy winds caused damage March 2-3.

Above-normal temperatures are expected for spring, along with above-normal precipitation. Then, a cool summer is expected with above-average rain.

Jane Vesche invites everyone to come see the custom, stained-glass white lily created for the window of Main Street Flowers for Easter. The artwork was done by Diane Eissinger of Sumpter Township, who is internationally known and acclaimed for her stained-glass creations.



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BELLEVILLE - AREA

INDEPENDENT

Established Dec. 3, 1994 First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.

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Letters

Kids shouldn't be moved without parents' OK

To the Editor:

On Thursday, March 8, two of our elementary schools lost power around 11:30 a.m. Around 1 p.m. our new Superintendent made the decision that our children would be bused over to the high school where they would continue on with their classes in the cafeteria.

I can't say that this time was used wisely. Once there, a movie was put in and viewed on a portable screen about the size of a postage stamp. Bathrooms had no hand soap available, nor was there any hand sanitizer as back up.

There are several things I find wrong with this decision that Mr. Van Tassel made. One being that he made this call and carried it out without the permission of parents.

We have to sign a permission slip for our children to take a bus for a field trip. Why is it that Mr. Van Tassel thinks he has the right to transport my child without my permission? Also, the last time I checked, Mr. Van Tassel is NOT authorized on my child's emergency contact list as a person who can "sign" my child out of school.

Oh sure, the district sent out an automated Honeywell alert notifying parents about the situation, but that was well AFTER my child had already been bused over to the high school.

My hope is that he understands that as parents, we deserve the courtesy of an alert PRIOR to our children being moved from the building in a non-emergency situation and given the option of coming to pick up our child/children.

Sincerely,
One Very Concerned Parent
(Name withheld by request)

St. Stephen 64th Spring Polish Festival is May 18-20

St. Stephen's in New Boston is making final plans for its 64th-annual Spring Polish Festival, this year held May 18-20.

For information call the parish office at (734) 753-5268.

Willow Church to give away free clothing, again

To the Editor:

Willow Church will once again be hosting a FREE (gently used) clothing event to benefit anyone in the communities struggling to afford these items. Just show up, take what is needed, and pass it on ...! No questions asked!

Please join us on Saturday, March 24 from 10-3 (or until all items are gone) in our church basement and take home any clothing items available that you might need.

This takes place at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Road, New Boston, MI 48164, phone 734-654-9020, www.willowchurch.org .

A special note of thanks: To everyone that donated items for our August Free Style event, a sincere heart-felt and most grateful thank you for your generosity. You donated when we didn't ask and because of your kindness, nearly 50 people were helped.

We were overwhelmed by the graciousness of all who stepped up and wanted to do something. Because of you, someone in need had one less worry that day.

This March we'll do it again with confidence knowing we are surrounded by your great willingness to help.

Thank you once again,
Your Friends at Willow Church

March Birthdays


March 8 – Gabriel Hawkins
March 17 – Edward D. Hawkins, Connie Prouty
March 19 – Vannie Hawkins
March 24 – Lewis Dunford, Mary Fitzpatrick

Do you have a birthday in March? Does anyone you know have a March birthday? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

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Belleville Area Independent

More Letters

VBT doesn't want to be like Detroit, Wayne Co.

To the Editor:

I'm sharing with your readers the letter I wrote to Supervisor White and the Van Buren Township Board members on March 7.

I wanted to touch base with you on a few things after seeing the meeting last night on VBT.

1. Please allow me to express my discontent with regards to the meeting held on March 6. It was disheartening to see the way the elected officials were acting within a public forum and embarrassing, as well.

I understand that a point of order must be followed at all times during public meetings such as this, but I feel I must implore you to watch the replay of this meeting. Many times you tell members of the audience to come to order yet you yourself aren't showing the due respect to the process of order.

When another member of the board asks via the chair to speak on a topic, and is acknowledged, the floor becomes theirs to speak on that topic. Many times you are rudely attempting to speak over the board members that are attempting to speak or question certain topics.

How can you expect the audience to follow a point of order during a meeting when you, yourself, cannot do so? I find it to be very hypocritical. The board member that has the floor should have an uninterrupted period of which to speak and then if follow up is warranted by other board members, members of the public or yourself, it should follow after that member of the board or even a member of the public has spoken.

Just because you do not agree with a topic of discussion or a vote does not give you the right to keep interrupting the person that clearly has the floor at that time. This should be held the same when citizens are trying to voice their opinions.

You give a very short amount of time to speak when it comes to some sensitive subjects and then when that person is attempting to speak, you repeatedly cut them off stating they are out

(continued on page 9)

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Obituaries



Donald Wilfred Roullier, Sr.

DONALD WILFRED ROULLIER, SR.

(November 24, 1922 – March 7, 2012)

Donald Wilfred Roullier Sr., age 89, of Belleville, passed away March 7, 2012. Beloved husband of Phyllis "Bell". Loving father of Donald (Claudia) Roullier, Jr. and Jacqueline. Dear grandfather of Donald Roullier III, Renee (Jeff), Michael and Patrick and great-grandfather of Danielle, Samantha, Katherine, Ila and Alex. He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilfred and Irene Roullier and his brother James.

Visitation was Saturday, March 10, 1-8 p.m. at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, (next to Michigan Memorial Park) 30895 Huron River Dr., Huron Twp., (734) 783-2646. Funeral service was Sunday, March 11, at 2 p.m. Interment was in Michigan Memorial Park. www.michiganmemorialfuneralhome.com



Ronald W. Sereno

RONALD W. SERENO

(July 16, 1938 – March 11, 2012)

Mr. Ronald W. Sereno, 73, of Belleville passed away on Sunday, March 11, 2012 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital following respiratory complications. He was born on July 16, 1938 in Detroit, Michigan a son of Albert and Charlotte (Burns) Sereno. On April 15, 1961 he was married to Judith Smith in Redford, Michigan moving to Belleville from Walled Lake in 2006.

Mr. Sereno is survived by his loving wife of 50 years Judith; adoring children Ronald (Michelle) Sereno Jr. and William (Bobbi) Sereno. Fond grandfather of Jessica (David) Lane, Cecilia (Steve) Carroll, William Sereno, Charles Sereno and great grandfather to Adriana and Brayden Lane. Also survived by 1 sister, Shirlee (Tom) Broskea and many nieces and nephews. Cremation Rites have been accorded. In lieu of memorial contributions, the family requests that masses be offered up in memory of Mr. Sereno. Arrangements have been entrusted to Higginson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St. Belleville, (734) 697-9400. www.hnfhhome.com



Ruby E. Clayton

RUBY E. CLAYTON

(February 17, 1918 - March 10, 2012)

Ruby Elizabeth Clayton, age 94, of Belleville, MI, passed away Saturday, March 10, 2012 at her home. She was born February 17, 1918 in Plymouth, MI, daughter of the late Walter & Elizabeth (Harrison) Matevia.

Ruby was a long-time and active member of the First United Methodist Church, Belleville. She was also a 70+ year member of Eastern Star and their treasurer for more than 30 years. She loved sports and supporting the Detroit Red Wings and Tigers. She was a master Seamstress and even made a few wedding dresses for family members. Grandma Ruby enjoyed gardening, playing cards, baking and most of all, loved cooking and taking care of her loving family. She is survived by two daughters Nancy (Art) Tucholski of Chandler, AZ and Rebecca (Hugh) Munce of Brighton, MI; five grandchildren Eric (Heather) vasBinder of Blissfield, MI, Janet (Brad) Duvall of Mesa, AZ, Robert vasBinder of Dundee, MI, Michael Munce of Tampa, FL and Bradley Munce of Chicago, IL; seven great-grandchildren Dalton & Devin vasBinder, Katie & Abbey Duvall, Sarah & Christian vasBinder and Mikey Munce; also numerous nieces, nephews, friends and church family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Harold Brown Clayton in 1994, daughter Eunice vasBinder on March 7, 2012, brother in childhood John Matevia, sister Ruth Tillotson, two brothers Harold & George Matevia, also two nieces and two nephews.

Visitation was Monday 2-4 PM & 6-8 PM and Tuesday 2-4 PM & 6-8 PM at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Funeral Service was 1:00 PM Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles St., Belleville, with visitation Noon-1 PM. Rev. Jim Walker and Rev. Mary Hoff officiated. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Mercy Hospice or to the Belleville Chapter of Eastern Star, and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a story for her family to treasure forever at www.davidcbrownfh.com.



Dora M. Bailey

DORA M. BAILEY

(December 15, 1924 - March 10, 2012)

Dora Mae Bailey, age 87, of Belleville, formerly of Garden City, MI, passed away Saturday, March 10, 2012 at her home. She was born December 15, 1924 in Bute, Pennsylvania, daughter of the late Asa & Winifred Fike. She was a member of the Van Buren Senior Center and the Red Hat Club of Belleville. She also enjoyed being a Girl Scout Leader in the Garden City area for many years. She was active in Tai-Chi and loved to read and spend time with her family.

Survived by her husband of 65 years George Edward Bailey, daughter Lois Kearney, granddaughter Jennifer (Jack) Witmer, great-granddaughter Jenna Witmer, all of Garden City; a sister Delores Owens of Valencia, California; also a brother Ralston (Elsie) Fike of Pensacola, Florida.

She was preceded in death by her parents, three sons Larry Dean Sparks, and Gerald & Thomas Bailey, also a brother James David Fike.

Visitation was 4-8 PM Monday with an 11:00 AM Funeral Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Interment was in Denton Cemetery, Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society and would be appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

SHEREL ANN DILLION

(August 12, 1967 - March 11, 2012)

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 17, at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, with Pastor Gordon Moore officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute for breast cancer research.

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Obituary



Jerry Leon Nutt, Sr.

JERRY L. NUTT, SR.

(July 31, 1936 - March 12, 2012)

Jerry Leon Nutt, Sr., age 75, of Belleville, MI, formerly of Taylor, MI, passed away Monday, March 12, 2012 at his home. He was born July 31, 1936 in Glennie, MI, son of the late Jessie Floren & Leona Katherine (Thren) Nutt.

Jerry proudly served his country in the U.S. Marines and was a member of the Taylor VFW and the American Legion, and was a past Post-Commander. He was also a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, New Boston, MI. Mr. Nutt enjoyed spending time up north and in Florida, reading, drawing and western movies. He loved camping and riding 4-wheelers and was famous for always saying "Don't tell your mother!"

Jerry is survived by his wife of 54 years, Arlene Emma (Nowitzke) Nutt; six children Terry (Pam) Nutt of Augusta, MI, Cheryl Burke and Garwin (Vicki) Nutt, both of Belleville, MI, Charlotte (Don) Fecay of New Boston, MI, David Nutt of Belleville and Jerry Nutt, Jr. of Waterfront; 19 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; a sister Carolyn Nowitzke of Romulus; a brother Stanley (Dana) of Taylor, MI; numerous nieces, nephews and friends; also his beloved dog Frankie.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters Rosanna, Susan and Nina; also two brothers Garland and Roland.

Visitation was 3-8 PM Tuesday and 12-4 PM & 5-8 PM Wednesday with an 11:00 AM Funeral set Thursday, March 15, 2012 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Pastor D. Lee Cullen will officiate. Interment will be in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, MI.

Please sign his on-line guest book and share a memory for his family to cherish at www.davebrownfh.com.

STEPHANIE STAFFORD

Our world has lost a vibrant angel. With family by her side, Stephanie Stafford, 41, passed to be with the Lord peacefully at her home March 13, 2012 after a long battle with cancer.

Loving wife to Ronnie and cherished mother to Chelsea, 20, and Rachel, 18 -- Stephanie will be missed by many.

Stephanie was studying to be a nurse and enjoyed being outdoors, reading, photography, her pets, kayaking, and spending time with those she loved. She lived life to the fullest and never took for granted the extra time God gave her here on this Earth.

Stephanie is survived by her husband and children; her mother Elizabeth Haywood and step-father Gresham Haywood of Crossville, TN; father Bill (Bub) Stafford and step-mother Mary of Ypsilanti, MI; sisters Melissa Taylor and spouse Vern, Belinda Skutt and spouse Drew, Leah Hensley and spouse David, Gresham (Tate) Haywood and spouse Kristi; and countless family and friends that loved her dearly.

Per her request, a memorial service will be held at Beacon Baptist Church, 21721 Northline Road, Taylor, MI 48180 on March 17, 2012 from 11:30 to 12:30.

In lieu of flowers, donations would be greatly appreciated by the family to assist them during this time.

VBT Board votes 4-2 to tighten policy on review of employee emails

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

While Van Buren Township Supervisor Paul White insisted he had not only the right but the responsibility to investigate messages to and from the township which he said were in violation of state law, a majority of the township board disagreed.

During its tempestuous meeting March 6, the board voted 4-2 to amend the township computer use policy to exempt elected officials from its rules and not allow monitoring of their emails (except by FOIA requests) and to require two of the three elected full-time officials to agree before an employee's email can be monitored.

Voting no were Supervisor Paul White, who insisted it was a violation of the law, and Trustee Denise Partridge, who said she wanted to wait until Clerk Leon Wright was present and an attorney could be there to discuss the ramifications.

"There was a huge violation of the Bullard-Plawecki Act," said Supervisor White, citing a very high probability that the law which protects the privacy of employee personnel records had been violated. He said under the Charter Township Act, the supervisor is supposed to do everything possible to enforce the law.

"My opinion is that the policy is a move to diminish the powers of the supervisor,"

White said, accusing the three elected officials who were hold-overs from the last administration of "trying to do an end run around the law."

"I will send it to the attorney to see that it complies with the law or it will be null and void," White said.

It took 45 minutes for the board to pass a motion to approve the amended agenda with the new computer policy in place. That included three agenda votes and an unsuccessful motion to adjourn.

"I know that confidential information pertaining to an employee was being divulged," said Trustee Partridge before changing her vote to put the item on the agenda. "Just because you're authorized, doesn't mean you should."

"I did not monitor elected officials emails," White clarified. "An email was sent to all elected officials. I was not monitoring. I was very specific for emails from a specific resident to the township," White said.

(continued on page 10)

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More Letters

(continued from page 6)

of line or attempting to answer questions on their time. You should be more respectful and allow them their time to speak uninterrupted and then follow up with any answers or responses you might have. It's called respect.

2. In regards to your reading of confidential emails of board members as well as employees, you're opening the door for further litigation in doing so. As the Supervisor, you are correct, you are charged with ensuring that everyone follows

the ordinances and laws accordingly. However, you are not the law and there are specific channels that should have been followed when this "investigation" took place.

You as the Supervisor should have notified the proper channel of law had you thought a law or ordinance was being broken. According to my attorney (and even he said there are many lawyers that interpret the laws in different ways as to supply their client with information that they specifically want) all members of society are covered under the laws directly applicable to email privacy are federal and state wiretapping statutes.

On the federal level, the Wiretap Act 18 U.S.C. 2510-2522 (1994), as amended by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 (ECPA) Pub. L. No. 99-508, 100 Stat. 1848 (1986), prohibits the interception, recording and disclosure of "any wire, oral, or electronic communication" unless one of the parties to the communication, implicitly or explicitly, consents.

The Stored Communications Act [10 U.S.C. � 2702(b)(3) (1994)] similarly requires consent of either the sender or the receiver of email messages before a stored message may be accessed. This includes government entities

and their constituents. Although most state wiretapping statutes are modeled on the federal law, Michigan statutes afford its Michigan email users more protections than the federal model.

Federal preemption does not apply in states such as Michigan that have enacted their own statutes providing users more protection than the federal wiretapping laws. (S. Rep. No. 1097, 90th Cong. 2d Session, reprinted in 1968 U.S.C.A.N. 2112, 2187). The emerging law is that for cases involving email, state jurisdiction may be exercised when email is intentionally targeted to recipients in specific state or by specific warranted entities.

The Michigan wiretapping statute requires that all parties to the communication must agree to the monitoring for communication interceptions to be legal. See, e.g., MCL 750.539c. There are notable exceptions such as legal surveillance by a state police officer or federal official while in the performance of that official's duties, and interception of communication as long as it is done in the ordinary course of business routinely conducted with a valid business purpose at its core. See, e.g., MCL 750.539g. Basically, had it been emails pertaining to business of the township, it should have been retrieved via the legal process. Not even a public official, member of the district attorney's office nor police entity can gain access to such information without a warrant signed by a judge.

The reason for this is that any employee or citizen could have been speaking in confidentiality to a board member about an issue that they had with you and had you been granted the authority by law to intercept or monitor the emails personally, you could take action unlawfully against the person or persons within the email.

That being said, if I find that ANY emails that I have personally sent to board members that you were not labeled as a recipient of, was intentionally monitored, intercepted or otherwise read by you or any other person other than whom it was intended for, I will sue you Supervisor White personally, the Township I.T. department for allowing it to occur, as well as hold the Township accountable for invading my privacy and have you arrested for violation of the Michigan Wiretapping Statute and I implore that the citizen that was unlawfully called at their home by a Township attorney and questioned as well as the board members that may have been questioned to seek legal representation immediately as their rights to privacy were trampled on by this Township's Supervisor.

As for the board as a whole, I applaud your efforts to regain control of the meeting in question and was very glad to see you all come together as somewhat of a team to ensure the business of the people was taken care of. Trustee Jahr, the change you made was in the best interest of the people, township and all of the board members and their constituents' privacy and I agree wholeheartedly that this was warranted and I am pleased it was adopted.

And Supervisor White, paying \$136 per hour for an attorney to basically be a private investigator? Shame on you for wasting the people's money. There are other avenues to pursue in regards to investigations. Had a law been broken, it's the job of the police as well as a D.A. and judge to handle the issues of investigation. Not the Township Supervisor.

It's in-house "quiet" investigations like this that were attempted to be kept hush-hush that caused the demise of the Detroit City Government.

Do we really want to look like them? Or, like Wayne County with all of the secrecy? I think not...

Respectfully,
David A Bittenbender, Jr.
Van Buren Township



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VBT Board

(continued from page 8)

The emails allegedly were to and from township officials and resident CeJay Marshall concerning the suspension of Fire Chief Darwin Loyer, which White insists should have been protected under Bullard-Plawecki.

"I'm not accusing you of doing anything wrong," Trustee Jeff Jahr said to White. "You acted under advice of counsel ... but the board wanted to change the policy."

Jahr said he has nothing to hide and nothing he's ashamed of, but people writing to him may think the supervisor's looking over his shoulder and reading the email.

Treasurer Sharry Budd accused White of asking Information Technology Director Steve Rankin to pull particular emails and keep it quiet.

"That's terribly wrong to intimidate an employee," Budd said, adding that Rankin told her he's done it more than once.

Budd warned people in the community not to send her any emails because, "He's out there."

Budd said for this policy only, with the changes, the elected officials are "not considered employees."

"We don't need to be spending money on an attorney for this," said Trustee Phil Hart.

"If it's in violation of state law, let's be in violation of state law and move forward," said Trustee Al Ostrowski.

"It doesn't have to be carved in stone," said Jahr. "It can be changed."

"Why not wait two weeks?" White asked.

"Because in the meantime, I don't want you to look at my email," Jahr said.

In other business at the 2-1/2 hour meeting, the board:

- Held a public hearing on a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for repairs to the Denton Road entrance to Van Buren Park. The road has completely washed away exposing the sanitary sewer line and

(continued on page 11)



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VBT Board

(continued from page 10)

endangering a water main. This grant would provide 50% of the cost of replacement for a total of \$116,380 in state funds. The township's share would also be \$116,380 and the total would pay for the installation of a 14' box culvert that will resolve the problem for years to come. Currently the beach house, boat house, and restroom nearby are without service;

- Approved the supervisor's appointments of Joe E. Baskin, Jr. and Edward J. Miller to the Downtown Development Authority with terms to expire March 3, 2016. They replace Victor DeLibera whose term expired and he resigned, and Mike Suliman, whose term expired and he was not reappointed;

- Unanimously approved the 2011-16 Capital Improvement Plan, as endorsed by the Planning Commission;

- Heard Supervisor White read a Resolution proclaiming March as Women's History Month in VBT;

- Heard Supervisor White read the State of the Township Address;

- Heard Treasurer Budd read a eulogy to the late Donna Hall, who served as trustee and treasurer in VBT; and

- Heard County Commissioner Kevin McNamara report on Wayne County business, noting that they are working on upgrades to Ecorse/Belleville, Haggerty/Ecorse, and the bridge over I-275. He said the I-94 South Service Drive will not be repaired because of lack of funding.



Shelby Wilson, 19, of Belleville was named to the Dean's List at the University of Michigan – Dearborn. She is a sophomore majoring in Behavioral Sciences.

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They're reading the Independent everywhere

Audrey Broughton reads her *Independent* in front of the Bocilla Island sign at Bokeelia, Florida, at the northern end of Pine Island near Cape Coral. Audrey, formerly of Belleville, was visiting her daughter Linda Broughton, a teacher who graduated from Belleville High School in 1968.

For those who are considering submitting a photo, be advised that your entry will be run when space allows. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before it's printed. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$25 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$30 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

Dr. Lawrence Jelsch

General Dentist



**CLEANING
& CHECK-UP**

\$59.00

New patients only. Includes regular teeth cleaning, doctor's exam
and up to 4 bitewing x-rays. Call on or before March 30, 2012.
Please mention this ad when calling.

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**152 Main St., Suite 7
Belleville, MI**



Ralph and Arlene Bird

Ralph, Arlene Bird celebrate 65th wedding anniversary March 15

Ralph and Arlene Bird of Belleville will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary with a private family luncheon given by their children.

Ralph married the former Arlene Titus on March 15, 1947 in Belleville. Ralph and Arlene have been members of the First United Methodist Church of Belleville for the past 50+ years.

Ralph is retired from Draw-Tite, Inc. and Arlene is retired from Van Buren Public Schools transportation office where she served as supervisor.

They have enjoyed traveling in their motor home for many years with the Michigan Knights of the Highway motor

home group where Ralph previously served as president.

They have been blessed with four children, Ray of Chandler, AZ; Roger (Julie) of Belleville; Pam (Mike) Fleming of Belleville; and Craig of Ypsilanti. Ralph and Arlene have six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Their family sends its greetings with, "Happy 65th Anniversary from all of us, Mom and Dad. Your longtime love and devotion to each other have etched in our minds the true meaning of 'commitment'. We love you both very much."

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LEGACY FIVE On **in concert**

**FROM
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Friday, March 23rd @ 7pm

At

Romulus High School

9650 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174

Tickets on sale now for \$12 (\$14 at-the-door)

*** 1/2 price for kids 12 and under**

Call 734-697-7456

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SPRING SPECIAL: THRU APRIL 15th!

Gas Powered Push Mower Tune-Up Special!



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\$49⁹⁵
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at 8am**



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BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER

ANY TWO FOR \$15.00

11am to Close - Beverage Purchase Required for Each Meal - Dine In Only

**1/2 Slab of Ribs • Broasted Chicken
Sirloin Steak • Fish Dinner (Cod) • Smelt Dinner**
Above Includes Cup of Soup or Salad, Potato or Rice & Nuggets

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT!

**THURSDAY-KARAOKE 8pm-Midnight
FRIDAY-DJ NIGHT 9pm-1am
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DAILY DINE-IN SPECIALS

Beverage Purchase Required for Each Meal. 4pm to 9pm.

**SUNDAY
1/2 Price
Pizza**

**MONDAY
Slab of Ribs
Choice of Potato & Salad
\$10⁹⁹**

**TUESDAY
All You Can Eat
Pizza-Spaghetti-Salad
\$6⁹⁹**

**WEDNESDAY
4 pc Broasted Chicken
\$5⁹⁹**

**THURSDAY
Surf & Turf
\$11⁹⁹**

**FRIDAY
All You Can Eat
Fish & Chips
\$7⁹⁹**

**SATURDAY
1 lb. Crab Legs
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50¢ Wings**



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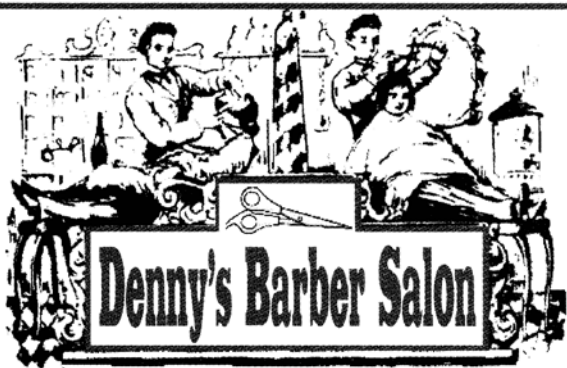
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Men's Haircuts \$9
First Time Visit

Ladies Haircuts \$14
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Men's Cut & Shave \$19

Ladies Chemical Services
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Haircut, Manicure, Pedicure \$39⁰⁰

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 **Donate It, call Us.** 

We Will Pick It Up Or You
Can Drive It In For More \$.

16007 Pardee, Taylor, Michigan

734-282-1700

Menards

(continued from page 1)

Service Drive.

Purchase of the property, which includes the former Farmer Jack building, depends on site plan approval by the township, Sloane said in a phone call to White from California.

Supervisor White said a site plan for the property is expected to be presented to the township soon and Menards has very recently been requesting ordinance information from the township.

"This will be a tremendous boost in our local economy and add value to our tax base," White said in a letter to the township board this week.

"I am very pleased we have the possibility of them coming here," he said.

White had announced the pending project to the VBT Downtown Development Authority at its regular meeting on Jan. 24.

"As most of you know, I've been working hard for 12 months on getting Menards to come to the township."

He said he has made numerous phone calls to Eau Claire, WI, which is Menards' headquarters, and to California. There have been a lot of visits, as well.

"This morning I got a telephone call and later met with Tom O'Neill and Charles Shay for an hour," he said Jan. 24.

"They made a commitment to me and were very enthusiastic about Menards coming to Van Buren," White said.

He said this is not the final decision, but the township should be informed of their final decision soon.

Menards had been considering a site in Canton at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Morton Taylor Road. White said there are multiple issues in Canton that they wouldn't have in VBT.

"If this happens, I'm asking how the DDA can be a kicker for this project and help it," White said. DDA members said they would be willing to help in any way.

White said the site would be between the hotels and Farmer Jack on the North I-94 Service Drive.

He said Sloan, who has owned the property for 50 years, has been talking to the Wayne County Fair Association to buy a sliver of land needed for the proper setback for a Menards building.

White said the vacant Farmer Jack building will have to come down, but the rest of the shopping center would stay.

Later, White said all Menards are alike in layout and the buildings are about 200,000 square feet. It takes nine months from groundbreaking to the ribbon cutting.

The store would be facing Belleville Road, with the lumber pickup area off the North Service Drive. The store would bring 150 jobs, half of them part-time.

Recently Crain's Communications published a list of a few sites in Southeastern Michigan that Menards has targeted for new stores. VBT wasn't on the Crain's list, so Supervisor White called Menards, who reportedly told him VBT was still on their list, and they shouldn't believe everything they read. The Crain's report came from a planning commission meeting in Livonia where a few sites were mentioned, but not all the sites.

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP!

SAM'S BAR

WEEKLY SPECIALS!

March 17 - ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

Green Beer •
Corned Beef & Cabbage

March 21 - LADIES NIGHT

Dress Up As 50's!

March 25 - CHILI COOKOFF 3PM-4PM

Judging 4:15pm. Entry Fee \$10

March 28 - LADIES NIGHT

Disco Days!



40675 Bemis @ Savage ~ Sumpter

(734) 699-8526




Charlotte Nichols named Woman of Achievement by Women's Club

The Belleville Area Women's Club at its regular business meeting in February honored Charlotte Nichols as the Member of Achievement for 2012.

Charlotte joined our organization in August 2001 and immediately became active within its various activities and assumed chairmanships on numerous projects. She is married to Don Nichols.

She grew up in Philadelphia, one of six children – four brothers and one sister and lived there until her senior year in high school when she came to live with her grandparents in Pontiac. She began caregiving at that time as her grandmother had broken her hip.

After graduating from Eastern, she began a long and productive career as a teacher in Wayne-Westland Community Schools. Although she did not have children, she helped to raise her step-grandchildren and has been a special aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Her finest qualities are her thoughtfulness, her positive attitude and her determination. She is also a lot of fun to be with and has a number of dear friends who have been supportive of her in good times and in her illnesses. She is currently undergoing chemo treatments. We all wish Charlotte complete recovery to good health.

Charlotte loved bowling and we think sometimes that some of that is the camaraderie of being with good pals.

Charlotte is now retired as a teacher, but does substitute teaching. She can enjoy the kids and the teachers do the work, something like being a grandparent.

She loves her cat Ebony. She teaches adult Sunday school class at the Methodist church.

Congratulations, Charlotte, and for this occasion attending also was her sister Kathy and husband Bill from Jonesville and brother Richard from Toledo and brother Bill from Westland. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a framed certificate.

Sophia P. Zoller
Belleville Area Women's Club

Arts Council sets auditions for youth theater performance

The Belleville Area Council for the Arts is seeking young people from 13 to 20 years old to perform in the first theatre performance to be held sometime in May this year.

Auditions were held on Wednesday March 14 and will be held again from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 15, at Victory Station, Five Points, Belleville. For more information call Kris at 313-204-6277.

Rep. Slavens sets coffee hours

State Representative Dian Slavens, D-Canton, invites residents to join her for a cup of coffee and conversation at one of her upcoming coffee hours. On Friday, March 23, she will be at the Belleville Charhouse, 524 Main Street, Belleville, from 8 to 9 a.m. and later that day, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Daydream Café, 47192 Michigan Ave., Canton.

Belleville City Council Agenda Special Meeting Thursday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence
2. Roll Call
3. General Business

A. City Attorney Interviews:

- 6:30 p.m. – Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton, P.C.
- 7:15 p.m. – Cummings, McClorey, Davis & Acho, P.L.C.
- 8:00 p.m. – Barr, Anhut & Associates, P.C.
- 8:45 p.m. – Johnson, Rosati, Schultz & Joppich, PC

4. Adjournment

Notice to Advertisers:

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

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Caring, mature, enthusiastic people needed to work with women who have disabilities. Will train the right person. \$7.86/hr. to start with paid for training. Please call (734) 461-2204

ATTENTION: SENIORS, RETIREES & RESPONSIBLE ADULTS OF ANY AGE.

Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue of Sumpter Twp. is seeking dependable volunteers to work 2-4 hours a day, 1 or more days a week. Please call or email Sandy @ (734) 417-5117 or seatonsandra@yahoo.com

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call (734) 697-1800

TFN

ESTATE SALE

ESTATE SALE

**Saturday & Sunday
March 17-18 10am-5pm
24034 Bohn Rd., Belleville
(Between Wear & Dunn Roads)
Beautiful Home Furnishings
& Home Decor; Lamps, Rugs,
Artwork, Appliances, Computer
Desk, w/Matching Trundle Bed,
Collectables, Crafts, Craft
Supplies and Much More!**

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Huron School District Kindergarten Round-Up For 2012-2013

Brown Elementary

Monday, April 2nd

6-8 p.m.

734-782-2716

Miller Elementary

Tuesday, April 3rd

6-8 p.m.

734-753-4421

Parents that are interested in School of Choice may attend if you reside in Wayne County. For further information please call or visit our website at www.huronschools.com



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1979 VW BAJA Rebuilt Motor. \$2500
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Windows & Full Microsoft Office Suite.
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Great Value \$275. (734) 697-6344 3/22

METAL BUILDINGS SALE - Save
THOUSANDS, Factory Direct, Discount
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Buildings. 24x20, 20x30, More! Limited
Availability Call Today 866-352-0469 3/22

MOM TO MOM SALE

KEYSTONE ACADEMY, 47925 Bemis
Rd. Mom 2 Mom Sale. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
March 24th. Tables \$10. Admission \$1.
(734) 697-9470 3/22

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Discount Prices - Guaranteed!
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MUST SELL - 1999 HD ROAD KING.
6,345 miles, Stage 1 exhaust, V Twin,
Lots of chrome, Many extras. \$10,500
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miles, 5 speed manual, cruise, running
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\$11,000. (734) 699-9227 after 6 p.m. 3/22

1998 FORD F-150, long bed, V-6 engine,
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useable stoves, refrigerators, washers
& dryers. For needy families in
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WANTED - ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS
for the homeless. Please drop off at
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(734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED - SMALL CONTAINERS
of Shampoo, Toothpaste, etc. to take
to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at
Bladez's, 601 E. Huron River Dr.
(734) 697-5600 TFN

GENE & SON TOWING. WE BUY
Junk Cars. Top Dollar paid. We pick
up. 7 days a week. (734) 502-4017 or
(734) 686-1250 4/05

LOST

LOST/STOLEN WHITE IPOD from
Lodge Lanes February 19th. Little
girls Christmas gift. Reward. Contact
JOJO827@MSN.COM 3/15

MALE HUSKY. Red collar w/ pink leash
with name of Tackett. Lost at Elwell &
Wear Rds. last week. (734) 309-5324 3/15

LOST MARCH 2nd. DAISY DOG.
Carmel color w/darker ears & tail.
Weight 8 lbs. Red collar. Vicinity of
Savage Rd. near Savage School. Name
Chet. REWARD (734) 697-7839 or
(734) 646-3459. 3/22

FOUND

FOUND - LOOKS Like JACK RUSSELL
Beagle Mix. White body, Black/Brown
markings on face. Looks young, maybe
1 1/2 -2 yrs. old. Found by Bellevilla
Condos. (734) 697-3546 3/22

GOLD HEAVY CHAIN BRACELET.
Engraved. Found approx. 1 yr. ago, just
turned into office. (734) 699-9020 3/22

FREE

AMY LUCIDI, VISTA DRIVE. YOU'VE
Won a dozen free roses. Pick them
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Belleville. www.mainstreetflowers.com
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Completely furnished, W-D, linens, dishes,
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Tyler/Morton Taylor Rds. 3 BR. 1
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St. \$630/mo. plus first, last & security.
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man caves. (734) 231-3289 3/15

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& Seasonal Mowing. Sm. Lots up to
3 acres. Murray's General Services.
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HELP WANTED

Summer Jobs Van Buren Township Parks
and Recreation Dept. is now accepting
applications for summer employment. Positions
available are: Summer Camp Counselor,
Seasonal Park Maintenance, Gate House
Attendant and Beach Attendant. Applications
must be filled out on site at Parks and
Recreation Department, 46425 Tyler Road.
Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources is now
accepting summer employment applications
at Maybury State Park, 20145 Beck Rd.,
Northville, and Belleville Boat Access sites
(Rawsonville Road south of I-94 and Huron
River Drive east of Five Points). Application
PR-7123 is at www.michigan.gov/dnrjobs or
to get one mailed to you call 248-349-8390.
Submit application and required resume to park
office or boating facility where you would like
to work. Other positions available at other DNR
locations. Call (517) 373-9900 for information.

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 6, 2012

Supervisor White called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor White, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee Ostrowski and Trustee Partridge. Absent: Clerk Wright (excused). Others in attendance: Parks and Recreation Director Wright, Public Safety Director McClanahan, Planning and Economic Development Services Director Carroll, DPW Director MacDonald, Chief Loyer, Executive Assistant/Assessing Coordinator Stevenson, DDA Director Ireland, Secretary Cline and an audience of twenty-six (26).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Hart moved, Budd seconded to approve the agenda adding New Business Item #2 "Consider Computer Use Policy." Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Jahr, Hart and Budd. Nays: Partridge, Ostrowski and White. Absent: Wright (excused). Motion failed.

Ostrowski moved, Partridge seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Ostrowski, Partridge and White. Nays: Jahr, Hart and Budd. Absent: Wright (excused). Motion failed.

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of the revision of Computer Use Policy for discussion only and to be considered at the next Regular Board Meeting. Trustee Jahr withdrew his motion and no vote was taken.

Treasurer Budd read a tribute to Donna Hall-Esser a former Van Buren Township Trustee and Treasurer who recently passed away. Trustee Partridge also recognized Donna Hall-Esser. A moment of silence was observed in honor of Donna Hall-Esser.

Partridge moved to add New Business Item #2 "Consider Computer Use Policy." to the agenda. Motion failed due to lack of support.

Ostrowski moved, White seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Ostrowski and White. Nays: Jahr, Hart, Budd and Partridge. Absent: Wright (excused). Motion failed.

Jahr moved, Partridge seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business Item #2 "Computer Use Policy, revised March 5, 2012." Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Budd, Hart, Jahr, Ostrowski and Partridge. Nays: White. Absent: Wright (excused). Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Jahr moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes February 21, 2012; Closed Session Minutes February 21, 2012; Regular Board Meeting Minutes February 21, 2012; approve the appointments of Joe E. Baskin, Jr. and Edward J. Miller to the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) with terms to expire March 9, 2016.] Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: Jahr moved, Hart

seconded to open the public hearing to hear public comment on Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund 2012 Grant Application. Carried.

Supervisor White opened the public hearing at 8:18 p.m. Supervisor White went to Planning and Economic Development Services Director Carroll for an explanation. Director Carroll stated last year the Township Board approved the Recreation Master Plan which included a five year capital improvement plan containing the restoration of the road into Van Buren Township Park from Old Denton Road. This public hearing is required as part of the grant application process for funding through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for a 2012 grant in the amount of \$232,760. This grant requires a local fifty percent match (\$116,380) of the cost. The project would include a 15 inch box culvert and the reestablishment of the road. This is the long term solution to correct this problem. Director Carroll stated these repairs have become an emergency issue due to erosion of the road exposing the sanitary sewer line and endangering the water main. Director MacDonald explained the emergency repairs are needed to the sewer line which services the U of M Boat House, the beach house and the restrooms at the south end of the park. Director MacDonald stated he is working on getting the sewer line reestablish in the interim noting, if the Township is awarded the Trust Grant funds would not be available until 2013. Director Carroll stated the Grant Application will come before the Board in a future Board Meeting for the Board's approval. Trustee Partridge requested Director MacDonald explain what a box culvert is. Director MacDonald stated it is a large square cement box that would direct the water flow preventing further erosion. Trustee Jahr stated the Environment Commission had discussed this grant application and support it. A resident, John Delaney stated this reestablished road would also be as a second access to the park for emergency use by Public Safety. Trustee Jahr stated the Environmental and Recreation Committees had both discussed the road being a second access to the park for emergency use by Public Safety.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to close the public hearing at 8:27 p.m.

Budd moved Partridge seconded to close the public hearing. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Ostrowski, Jahr, Hart, Budd, Partridge and White. Nays: None. Absent: Wright (excused). Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor White read a Proclamation declaring the month of March as Women's History month in Van Buren Township.

Supervisor White read the 2012 State of the Township.

Wayne County Commissioner Kevin McNamara gave a synopsis of what is going on in Wayne County as follows: the rebuilding of roads and road improvements in the township, a new jail, if residents have flooding problems contact Wayne

County Drain Commissioner and a Juvenile Diversion program in conjunction with the 34th District Court.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Hart moved, Partridge seconded to approve Resolution 2012-04 the Capital Improvement Plan. Carried.

Budd moved, Hart seconded to adopt the Computer Use Policy (revised March 5, 2012) as presented. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Budd, Hart, Jahr and Ostrowski. Nays: Partridge and White. Absent: Wright (excused). Carried. Treasurer Budd stated she does not believe this policy is against state law. Trustee Partridge stated she believes the policy needs to be revised but would like to wait for Attorney McCauley to address the Board. Supervisor White stated he thinks this is a violation of State Charter Township Act 359 of 1947 specifically MCL 42.10 paragraph (a) and paragraph (n).

VOUCHER LIST: Partridge moved, Ostrowski seconded to approve the March 6, 2012 voucher list as presented. Carried.

REPORTS: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Trustee Partridge announced Belleville Area Council for the Arts fund raising dinner on Sunday, March 11th at the Masonic Temple in the City of Belleville from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Treasurer Budd thanked her staff noting the tax season has ended and tax records are balanced.

Director Wright announced open registration for the three summer camps started on March 5th and spaces are still available. Also, the Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting applications for seasonal employment for camp counselors, gate keepers, beach attendants and seasonal maintenance. For more information contact the Recreation Department at 734-699-8921.

Supervisor White announced the Conference of Western meeting will be held at Van Buren Township Hall on Friday, March 9th at 9:30 a.m.

AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items): Comments were made from 9:42 p.m. to 9:54 p.m. by the Board and audience regarding the following topics: Van Buren Road; State of Township; Public Safety Department number of employees; electrical inspector rates; Supervisor White; Freedom of Information Act requests; Township Attorney costs; Denton subdivision break-ins.

CLOSED SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Hart moved, Partridge seconded to adjourn at 9:54 p.m. Carried. Respectfully submitted,
Leon Wright, Township Clerk
Paul D. White, Township Supervisor
Publish: March 15, 2012

AUCTION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 10 a.m., at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park Drive, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan, a public sale of the following vehicles will be held:

2000 Pontiac, 4-dr., VIN: 1G2WP52K5YF173365
1999 Mercury, 4-dr., VIN: 2MEFM75W9XX714319
1999 Oldsmobile, 4-dr., VIN: 1G3NF52E5XC335371
1997 Dodge, sta-wgn, VIN: 1B4GP54LXVB201991
1997 Dodge, 4-dr., VIN: 3B3ES47C6VT602632
1997 Dodge, sta-wgn, VIN: 2B4FP2539VR376601
1997 Mercury, 4-dr., VIN: 1MELM50UXVG617288
1994 Chevrolet, 2-dr., VIN: 2G1FP22S2R2144010
1992 Cadillac, 4-dr., VIN: 1G6CD53B9N4245488
1991 Toyota, 4-dr., VIN: JT2EL43A1M0015596
1986 Chevrolet, 2-dr., VIN: 1G1GZ37G6GR177143

Belleville Police Dept.
6 Main Street

Date: March 12, 2011
Publish: March 15, 2011

Belleville, MI 48111
By Chief Gene Taylor

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Charter Township of Van Buren Annual Cemetery Cleaning Notice

The Department of Public Works will be conducting its annual spring cleaning at all township cemeteries.

Spring cleaning will begin March 20, 2012 and run through April 15, 2012

Receptacles placed on graves such as flowerpots, religious items and similar objects will be discarded if not removed by April 15, 2012

New items may be displayed beginning April 22, 2012

Van Buren Township provides maintenance for the following cemeteries:

Denton (Michigan Avenue and Denton Road)
Soop (South I-94 Service Drive and Denton Road)
Tyler (Tyler and Hannan Roads)
Otisville (Riggs Road)

For additional information contact
DPW Leader Jeff Fondaw at 734.699.8925 ext. 9228

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



The **Belleville Charhouse** on Main Street will be hosting a book signing for former Belleville resident **Dan Martin** on Thursday, April 5 at 7 p.m. Dan will autograph his new book titled "Covenant", a novel, which is scheduled to be released by Energon Publications on March 19. Welcome home, Daniel.

Belleville Charhouse owners **John & Cindy Dakis** have announced that they will be opening a second restaurant in Westland, across from the mall on Warren Road in the former location of Johnny Carino's Italian. The new name will be **Westland Charhouse**. I'm excited for the Belleville couple as they have commissioned me to paint another mural for them there. The interior décor will also feature various art pieces from Westland area artisans. I'll keep you updated for the anticipated early summer opening.

The Belleville Chapter of **Younglife** will be holding a bowling night with Wyldlife kids this Friday, March 16, from 7 - 9 p.m. at Lodge Lanes. The cost is \$10 per person, which includes 2 games of bowling and shoes. Food will be available. For information, call **Sarah Kelly** at (734) 474-5963.

American Chimney Company is a one-stop total chimney and masonry repair business with 28 years of experience. For a free estimate, call **Kirk Feltz** at (734) 372-1354.

Curves of Belleville on Sumpter Road in the Davenport Plaza will once again be a drop-off site for their **14th Annual Food Drive** all this month. Participating members and non members can drop off non-perishable food items during regular business hours. New joining members can

have their membership fees waived with a bag of food, now through March 25. Call (734) 697-2000 for information.

Sumpter Ace Hardware on Sumpter Road near Willis Road will help you get your push lawnmower, weed whipper, and other handheld lawn maintenance tools ready for another mowing season. Right now, Ace is offering lawn mower tune-ups for just \$49.95 plus parts. Offer ends April 15. Call (734) 697-9363.

The Spring chicks and bunnies are now available at the **Willis Feed Mill** and Country Store in Willis, along the railroad tracks behind Boneheads Restaurant. WFM also sells Michigan made products, seeds, grains, pet and livestock food, and country crafts. Call (734) 461-1111.

Kodiak Tree Service is offering discounts on its winter and storm clean-up services like 50% off if you keep the wood and brush. Kodiak will also provide you with free estimates on tree topping and trimming, tree, shrub, and trunk removal. Bucket service is always on site and standing by. Call (734) 340-6155.

Saturday is St. Patrick's Day and parties will be o'plentiful starting at the **Bayou Grill** with corned beef and cabbage, Reuben Soup, Turkey Reubens, and green beer specials. **The Lunch Box** on Main Street will also be building their mile-high corned beef sandwiches and other signature items.

Sam's Bar on Bemis at Haggerty will serving corned beef and cabbage and other favorites. **Johnny's Grill** on High Street will have food and drink specials all day as the **Belleville Water Ski Club** will kick off the boating season with the **2012 Frozen Leprechaun Waterski Charity Party**, beginning at 2 p.m. Skiers will be accepting sponsorships with donations that will go to the Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation, which provides grants to teachers.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

Upcoming Events

- Monday, March 19 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education work/study, 7 p.m., Administration Building. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 20 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 21 – South Huron Valley Utility Authority, 10 a.m., Brownstown Township Hall. Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, VBT Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

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VBT Public Safety

(continued from page 1)

methods of entry, method of operation," McClanahan said. "We have both uniform presence and invisible presence."

He referred to the marked cars of police patrols and the undercover, unmarked vehicles.

"We can lock our windows and garage doors, pay attention to strange people in your community, be alert, notice things that don't look right," McClanahan advised, adding people should call police and if it's the undercover officers they are seeing, fine, otherwise police will respond.

Committee member Ramone Crowe said sometimes solicitors without permits knock on doors to see if anyone's home.

Committeeman Richard Wardwell said a Nixle alert should be sent out if the break-ins meet the criteria for alerts.

McClanahan said there have been no

Nixle warnings to the community about the break-ins in the Denton neighborhoods, but, "We have approached the point of a dozen break-ins there."

"Homeowners need to be warned," said vice chairman Reggie Miller.

"We'll take that into consideration," McClanahan said.

[On Monday, March 12, VBT Police sent out a rare Nixle alert, informing the public of three break-ins to vehicles in the Denton community.]

Chairman Diane Madigan asked about the shooting at Hidden Cove the previous Friday and if it shouldn't have been sent out as a Nixle alert, so residents could be helping to be on the lookout for the shooters.

"What shooting?" Miller asked, and was informed of the crime. "Citizens need to be alerted," Miller insisted.

"The shooting occurred between people known to each other," McClanahan said.

"That doesn't make it OK. It's not OK," Miller said.

"That's not what I meant," he replied. "It was among people known to each other. We'll correct the alerts."

"I'm getting two to three alerts hourly from the [Washtenaw County] Sheriff's Department," said Trustee Phil Hart. "We need to be informed. Nothing to get embarrassed over."

Miller said the Ann Arbor Chief of Police called a public meeting to give residents ways to avoid break-ins.

John Delaney said from the audience that Nixle BOLOs (be on the look outs) are put out within minutes from Washtenaw County and people in the area can watch for the vehicles being sought.

"Nixle. We all have to be eyes and ears for the community," said Cortez Brown. "I run Nixle for our neighborhood. You can sign up and dispatch messages. I can send out Nixle alerts and everyone can have it in seconds. It lessens a lot of work on the police. We should step out on our porches and look. We all have to work together."

"We'll have to revisit the whole process, obviously," McClanahan said of the Nixle alerts to the community.

At the last committee meeting, McClanahan said the Nixle alerts are supposed to be put out by the command officers on duty.

Very few Nixle alerts have been sent out by Van Buren Township in the last year.

McClanahan pointed out a new crime map is available on the township website by going to the police department site and clicking on crime mapping.

In other business at the almost four-hour March 7 meeting, the committee:

- Unanimously elected Diane Madigan as

chairman and on a 5-1 vote elected Regina Miller as vice-chairman, with the former vice-chairman Crowe voting no. "Let the record show the women have taken over," said Committeeman Raymond Bailey;

• Heard a police briefing from McClanahan, which included a report on staffing: down seven officers since last year. Officer Jessica Shippey is out on extended medical and is due back in July, one officer gone (fired) is being replaced, two retired last December, two left last summer, and one is retiring April 1. (That refers to Captain Ken Brooks, who reportedly will have a job at 34th District Court after retirement.);

• Postponed discussion until the April 4 meeting on the committee's annual report which Crowe said he sent to McClanahan who was supposed to send it on to committee members, but didn't;

• Postponed discussion on Fire Chief Darwin Loyer's proposed Cost Recovery Ordinance until April 4 after it can be reviewed;

• Heard a fire briefing from Chief Loyer. He said currently there are 37 fire fighters, not counting him. There were 39 people who applied for the most recent posting and they currently are being whittled down through tests. "We've made mistakes along the way and we're working to correct them," Loyer said of the hiring process, which they are trying to make faster and better;

• Discussed the Emergency Operations Center proposed by Loyer, with a subcommittee suggesting recommending that the township move forward with spending the \$25,000 budgeted for Phase I of its implementation. A presentation will be made to the Downtown Development Authority, for more financing;

• Discussed at length, a proposal to contract with Romulus for animal control services. In 2011, VBT paid \$63,712 for animal control services and Romulus would cost about \$27,960, a savings of 56%. The proposal was tabled until the April meeting until suggested changes could be made;

• Discussed hiring of a K-9 officer and McClanahan said they will be using a current officer for the position once money is allocated;

• Heard Madigan ask about the "shoe flinging" that leaves shoes hanging from wires, including one at Rawsonville and Bemis. McClanahan said that is considered "gang tagging" and he will look into it; and

• Heard Delaney discuss Code Red, an emergency alert program that calls residents' land lines and cell phones with alerts on the weather, crime, traffic, and other issues. Supervisor Paul White was going to present Code Red to the committee, but he left when the 5:30 p.m. meeting stretched out past 9 p.m. Delaney said Nixle can be expanded to do what Code Red does at less cost. Code Red will be added to the next agenda.

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